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SUBJECT: Bi-weekly Review - July 16 through July 30

POLITICAL

Governor General Returns from tour of Regions (UNCLASSIFIED)

Sir James ROBERTSON has returned from a sixteen-day tour in the Northern and Eastern Regions and the Southern Cameroons. His speech summarising the trip has been forwarded to the Department in D-17, July 29, 1955.

When Eastern Regional Premier AZIKIWE met the Governor General in Enugu, Zik stated that the 1956 Constitution must differ fundamentally from the present document. Zik stated that the new Constitution, unlike the one presently inforce, must be truly federal; that the several states thereunder should be so chosen that one unit could not dominate any other unit; and that the country should have uniform electoral laws based on universal adult sufferage. The Eastern Premier promised that his region would continue to recruit and provide adequate conditions of service for expatriate civil servants, but that it could "not tolerate direct or indirect interference in our politics by civil servants". "So long as the personal representatives of her Majesty the Queen appreciate their Constitutional role as philosopher, guide, and friend, so long will they find us unflinching in our loyalty and devoted in our allegiance to the Crown".

Meetings of Regional Assemblies (UNCLASSIFIED)

The legislative assemblies of the Eastern Region and the Southern Cameroons met on July 28; the Western House opens on August 3, and the Northern House on August 8. The primary item of business before all Houses will be the implementation of the Gorsuch Wage Report (see Labor below).

1956 Constitutional Convention (UNCLASSIFIED)

The press is carrying an increasing number of comments concerning Constitutional changes, many of them clearly motivated by

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the Governor General's recent tour.

Dr. E. M. L. ENDELEY, Leader of the Southern Cameroons Government, declared in a welcoming speech to the Governor General that the Southern Cameroons should be given full Regional Status in 1956. Endeley stated that the new Region should have an executive council consisting of three official members and six ministers, with a two-chamber legislature elected on a single-member constituency basis.

In the Eastern Region, NCNC Chief Whip, E. O. EYO amplified Zik's demand for "fundamental changes"; he urged the appointment of a Boundary Commission to settle land disputes between administrative authorities and stated that the abolition of the present Regions and the number and size of the new states should be decided jointly between NCNC and the NPC. This is the first such public statement by a leading NCNC member; Eyo declared that the NCNC should speak for the West at the Convention on the basis of the mandate given the party by the Western electorate during the last federal election.

In the West, the movement seeking a Benin-Delta State was confused by the conflicting statements of AG and NCNC proponents. The Oba of Benin issued a statement in the name of the Benin-Delta People's Party stating that his party repudiated NCNC support and would cooperate with the Acting Group Government which had evidenced its sincerity by passing a motion urging the creation of a Benin-Delta State.

Other voices have spoken against the proposed Calabar-Ogoja-Rivers State in the Western Region (see D-177, June 1, 1955, p.12). Previously, local leaders in the Ogoja Province had indicated their disinclination to join with Calabar and the Rivers Provinces; now a Port Harcourt spokesman, speaking in the name of the Rivers State Congress, has declared that the Rivers Province would refuse to join with the other two Provinces. Also, a release from the Port Harcourt branch of Ibo State Union has stated that the Union will make no recommendations concerning the formation of additional states.

Political Disturbance in Jos (UNCLASSIFIED)

One of the principal topics discussed in the recent convention of the Northern People's Congress in Maiduguri was party solidarity and the efforts which local branches of the NPC should make to reconcile members of the opposition Northern Elements Progressive Union (NEPU). Such an NPC-NEPU "reconciliation" meeting at Jos last week degenerated into a riot, causing the arrest of 15 persons and injuries to 8.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Observers at Maiduguri were impressed by the apparent unity of opinion of the NPC delegates, among whom were several members previously considered to owe allegiance to the NEPU. It seems clear, however, that there is significant opposition strength, much of it based on local issues rather than subscription to the over-all philosophy of the NEPU.

Adelabu Elected Chairman of Ibadan Council (UNCLASSIFIED)

Adegoke ADELABU, Federal Minister of Natural Resources and Social Services, defeated his AG opponent by more than a 3 to 1 margin [redacted] to regain his chairmanship of the Ibadan Council (see D-183, June 16, 1955, p.2). Immediately following his election, Adelabu declared that the battle in the West was between himself and AWOLOWO and that he proposed to gain the "glorious crown of the Western Region Premiership in 1956". The next day Adelabu was in trouble again when he was brought into a Western Regional Court on contempt charges resulting from allegedly insulting remarks which he had directed to an Ibadan Magistrate.

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ECONOMIC

Individual West African Currency Boards (UNCLASSIFIED)

In a debate in the British House of Commons, Minister of State for the Colonies Henry HOPKINSON stated that the present assets of the West African Currency Board (which issues common currency for Nigeria, the Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, and the Gambia) amounts to £99.9 million in assets and £7.1 million surplus. Mr. Hopkinson stated that should Nigeria or the Gold Coast wish to establish its own currency board, it would be able to withdraw its full assets and surplus in the form of sterling, and that the sterling thus acquired would provide full backing for the country's new currency.

West Cocoa Producer Prices for 1955-56 Crop (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Western Region Marketing Board has announced that producer prices for the next cocoa season will remain at the present rates, i.e., £200 per ton for Grade I and £185 per ton for Grade II (both main and light crops).

Previously an Ibadan meeting of the Nigerian Farmers' Union had petitioned for a price of £240 for the new crop. The Board announced that the existing level of producer prices should encourage farmers to increase production by improved farming methods, increased planting, and a more efficient disease control. It explained that the new prices had been released several weeks earlier than usual to reassure farmers who had feared that producer prices would be cut because of the recent drop in the world cocoa price.

Dunlop Rubber Scheme (UNCLASSIFIED)

In implementation of the negotiations recently announced between the British Dunlop Rubber Company and the Eastern Regional Government for the development of a 10,000 acre rubber plantation in Calabar Province, the London press has announced that a 5-man survey team from the company is en route from the United Kingdom to Nigeria.

Northern Region Development Corporation (UNCLASSIFIED)

The August meeting of the Northern House of Assembly will consider legislation establishing a Northern Region Development Dorporation. The new Corporation, which will take over all of the assets of the present Development (Loans) Board and the Regional Production Development Board, will consist of from 13 to 15 members, including a chairman appointed by the Northern Governor, a

representative of the Financial Secretary; single representatives from the Ministries of Trade and Industry, Natural Resources, and Works; and representatives from the House of Assembly and House of Chiefs.

Rent Control for Lagos (UNCLASSIFIED)

The press has reported that a Rent Control Inquiry, appointed a few months ago by the Federal Minister of Labor to examine the condition of lower-income housing in Lagos, has submitted its draft recommendations to the Council of Ministers. The submission reportedly recommends the establishment of a Rent Tribunal under which maximum rental rates would be set for various types of housing.

COMMENT (UNCLASSIFIED)

The major housing problem in Lagos derives from the 10 to 15,000 persons who are crowded into slum dwellings in a small area in the center of the island. Rent control as such will be difficult to enforce unless provision can be made for the relocation of renters and the construction of non-slum dwellings.

Additional Funds for Mines Reclamation (UNCLASSIFIED)

During his recent trip to the North, Governor General Sir James Robertson announced that the Federal Government has allocated an additional £50,000 to the Mines Reclamation Unit. An initial £50,000 had previously been given to that body for the resettlement farmers whose land had been lost due to strip or other mining activities in the Plateau area.

German Air Service to Nigeria (UNCLASSIFIED)

It has been announced in London that a Lufthansa has been given permission to provide passenger service at Kano or Lagos on flights from Europe to South Africa.

COMMENT (UNCLASSIFIED)

If the Germans choose to land at Lagos, the proposed service will fill a definite need since there is now no direct air service to Leopoldville and South Africa from the Nigerian capital.

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LABOR

ANTUF Annual Conference (UNCLASSIFIED)

The second annual conference of the General Council of the All-Nigeria Trade Union Federation (ANTUF) was held in Lagos July 16 through 18.

According to press reports, the meeting, which was not open to the public, was marked by the rivalry between the group led by the Chairman, N. A. COLE, and those following the leadership of Secretary General Gogo Chu NZERIBE. The latter returned from England in time for the meeting, much of which was devoted to consideration of a motion seeking the dismissal of Mr. Nzeribe on the grounds that he was not a member of an accredited trade union. (Nzeribe has been dismissed by the Post and Telecommunication Workers' Union from his post as Secretary General).

Another controversial motion reportedly stated that ANTUF should "sever connections with the NCNC....and form a political party to be known as the Nigerian Labor Congress". The latter was supported by Mr. Lawrence BORAH, a member of the Nzeribe faction (see D-9, July 16, 1955, p.7).

The meeting of the Executive Council was reported to have accepted the Gorsuch Report in principle but have demanded that the Eastern and Federal Governments immediately establish a £0-7-6 minimum daily wage for their workers. All decisions of the executive group must be validated by the ANTUF General Conference scheduled to be held in Lagos in November.

East Adopts Gorsuch Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

At the opening of the Eastern House of Assembly on July 28, the Eastern legislature accepted the recommendations contained in a White Paper relating to the Gorsuch wage revisions for civil service. Mr. Gorsuch's recommendations were generally followed, with a notable exception denying the increased benefits for education and passage allowances for children of expatriate officers.

The new wage pattern will be effective immediately and is retroactive to October 1, 1954. Its cost for the present fiscal year is estimated at £1½ million and the recurrent annual cost at £945,000.

At the same session the Eastern House also voted to increase salaries of Ministers and House members by an undisclosed amount.

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COMMENT (UNCLASSIFED)

The immediate question raised by the wage increases is whether the East can foot the bill. In the last fiscal year the Government's ordinary revenu as approximately £1 million; the remaining funds for its £5 m budget were derived from Federal and U.K. grants.

East Announces New Qualification for Recruitment of Expatriate Officers (UNCLASSIFIED

Eastern Governor Sir Clement PLEASS has signed a regulation providing that after July 21, 1955 expatriate employees of the Eastern Government will be recruited and hired under the following conditions:

(a) Any future recommendation for recruitment of an expatriate must be accompanied by the Director of Recruitment and Training.

(b) The Director of Recruitment and Training shall state, in the certificate, that to the best of his knowledge, no qualified African is available to fill the post.

(c) The Director of Recruitment and Training must also state any arrangement made for training an African to fill the post.

(d) The Director of Recruitment and Training must also state whether it is recommended that the expatriate officer be appointed on contract or on pensionable terms.

COMMENT (UNCLASSIFIED)

The AG's Nigerian Tribune editorialized that the Eastern Government had finally adopted an arrangement which had been in force in the West since March 1955. Continuing, the editorial stated that the East would not have had the "unfortunate" dispute over Permanent Secretaries if such a rule had been adopted earlier.

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MISCELLANEOUS OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Visit to Ibadan, Kaduna and Zaria (UNCLASSIFIED)

The reporting officer will attend the opening sessions of the Western House of Assembly at Ibadan August 4 through 6 and then travel to Kaduna for the Northern House sessions from August 8 through 12.

Consulate General Without American Stenographer (UNCLASSIFIED)

The volume of reporting, especially classified, will be severely restricted until a replacement arrives for the Consulate General's only American clerk, who recently resigned.

Edward D. McLaughlin
American Consul General

Department please pouch copies to: Accra, London, Leopoldville and Dakar.

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